

JAPAN WOULD END ALLIANCE

Abrogation of Treaty With
Britain Reported as
Sought.

LONDON IS ASTONISHED

Exchange of Notes Said to
Have Ended in Request
for Continuance.

CAUSE LAY IN CHINA

Washington Inclined to Disbe-
lieve the Report of
Japan's Desire.

TOKYO (via San Francisco), Nov. 8.—Having first requested Great Britain that a seal be placed upon the regular news channels out of Downing street, the Japanese Government, which the Japanese Foreign Office intended to make, and being in turn assured from London that the wishes of Japan would be scrupulously respected, the Government of the Mikado followed with a carefully couched intimation that it would be pleased if Great Britain should take the initiative toward the abrogation of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance.

The foregoing startling statement was made to your correspondent on Oct. 9, six days following the first intimation on the part of Japan to the British Government that it would be desirable to end or at least greatly modify the understanding entered into by the two Governments in 1902.

Coming from a source that has never proved unreliable in state matters of the first importance, your correspondent not only gave the news immediately and unquestioned credence, but at once instituted through persons high in official and social circles a careful investigation for such details as might be honorably obtainable. The result of this is the complete confirmation of the original statement in three separate and distinct quarters.

A Shock to England.

It is learned that the British Government had no intimation of what was coming from Tokyo at the time the Japanese Foreign Office asked for absolute secrecy on its intended note, and that the report to the latter indicated great surprise on the part of Sir Edward Grey and the higher officials of Downing Street.

The first note indicated that the Imperial Japanese Government, feeling that the alliance between the two countries was perhaps working more to the detriment of the nation than otherwise, and especially in view of the many great changes which had occurred within recent years in the Far East, and, further, as the apparent one-time need of a treaty of offense and defense between the widely separated countries no longer remained, it was the wish of the Mikado's Government that Great Britain take the initiative in assuming that such a treaty existed only nominally.

It is not asserted that these are the exact or even the strictly analogous words of the first note, but it may be stated with the utmost confidence that its general import is herewith given. The communication, sent in the British Foreign Office, either the (British Foreign Office) uses the secret code of the Japanese Government in its communications with Tokyo, was very brief, considering the importance of the subject matter, and was replied to by Sir Edward Grey within twenty-four hours of its receipt.

The reply was almost wholly an expression of surprise on the part of Great Britain that Japan would, first, consider it advisable to end the understanding hitherto existing between the two Governments, and secondly, to suggest that Japan should suggest that the British Government take the initiative. The reply was couched in such terms of anxious inquiry, if not apprehension, that a second note informing the British Foreign Office that a fuller communication setting forth all the reasons for Japan's action would be presented within a few days by the Japanese Ambassador in London, and, in fact, however, that this was not done, but that the third note was cable direct, as were the others.

Like the California Case.

It was cited that subjects of the Mikado were unwelcome in the two great dominions of Canada and Australia; that the former had already enacted statutes detrimental to the interests of Japanese emigrants, actual or prospective, and that the commonwealth government of Australia, seriously, contemplated the passage of laws not alone with a view of shutting out emigrants from Japan, but for the disfranchisement of those former subjects of the Mikado who had become settlers in that country. The reminder of the Government of Great Britain that while Japan had not seen fit to make formal protest over the treatment accorded Japanese in British territory, and while it recognized that the home government was not constitutionally empowered to correct or prevent the passage of obnoxious laws by the legislatures of the Colonies, the facts and slights offered the name and people of Japan had been deeply felt, and had tended to a feeling on the part of the Government and people of Nippon that the alliance was in no sense a sympathetic one.

To this note the British Foreign Office made two long rejoinders, one through the direct channel between London and Tokyo, and the other through the British Ambassador to Japan.

In these rejoinders Downing Street strongly protested, in the friendliest of terms, against the declared attitude of the Japanese Government; reciting that it was necessary for the maintenance of the status quo in the Far East that Great Britain and Japan continue in its present form and spirit the convention of 1902; that it was necessary for the preservation of the integrity of China that the two nations stand together in all matters affecting that country and the commerce of the entire Far East. The history of the arranging of the convention, with the fact that it was first proposed by Japan, and that it had been recognized and its meanings fully understood for over a decade by the leading Powers of the world, particularly by those nations claiming

privileges in eastern Asia and zones of influence in China; all these, it was argued, should weigh with the Government of the Mikado against even the suggestion of a modification of the great pact.

The British Government further replied that it could not be held responsible for the laws enacted by its semi-sovereign dominions beyond the seas so long as those enactments did not actually contravert the internationally recognized rights of other nations. In further answer on this point it was stated that the commonwealths of California, Nevada and New Mexico, of the American Union, had each and several passed laws at which, one and all, the Government and people of Japan had taken great or lesser umbrage, yet the Federal authorities of the United States, greatly exposed to these statutes, were powerless either to delay or to prevent their enactment.

Chinese Question Involved.

It is asserted in a quarter so closely in touch with the workings of the Privy Council and the doings of the British Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Office that it may be called quasi-official, that while the alliance with Great Britain has been growing less in favor with the Government and people of Japan, and while the recent move made toward its abrogation has been in contemplation for more than two years past, the real decision of Japan to cut loose from British ties came only a few weeks ago, immediately following the Chinese outrages against Japanese subjects at Nankin.

The killing of Japanese by regularly organized soldiers of the Chinese Republic, and all Nippon abhorred the action, and a desire for summary retribution. Hundreds of meetings of enraged citizens were held throughout the empire, but the press in Tokyo, left editors understand that news of these gatherings was not to be published. The authorities feared that publicity would further inflame the people and even cause outbreaks in the republic.

At the same time, while the Government frowned upon the actions of the populace it determined upon very drastic measures toward China; and it is known positively that in both the army and navy departments orders were issued looking toward an early movement hostile to the republic.

Information was given to the various press agencies and correspondents that the Government did not intend radical measures with China, but that such demands for apology and indemnity as might be made would be exposed to the British Government in the regular diplomatic way, without unseemly haste. This supposed information was not only cabled abroad but was published throughout Japan as a means of calming many new disorders and louder dissatisfaction.

During this time the Japanese Foreign Office secretly made enormous demands of President Yuan Shih-kai. One of these demands, and the most important, was that China should forthwith order Japan to send troops to the city of Tientsin and gunboats up the Peiho River, until such time as the Nankin outrages were fully and completely atoned for and an indemnity paid. Japan desired, it is said, that foreign forces should receive the impression of a really great confidence in Japan on the part of China, so great that President Yuan, especially in a time of internal turmoil, would not hesitate to invite Japan to send a force to be quartered at Tientsin until the Nankin matter was settled.

President Yuan Shih-kai and his Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sun Paowai, both sent replies to the strange proposal of Japan, in which they urged that as China was hardly recovered from the effects of the rebellion in the south the landing of Japanese troops at any place in Chinese territory would have a tendency further to unsettle the country and embarrass the Government.

To these representations the Japanese Foreign Office replied tersely, and orders were given for the mobilization and embarkation of the entire Fifth Army Division, with destination unnamed, and the assembling of two fleets of cruisers and gunboats, one at the mouth of the Peiho River, between Taku and Tongku, and the other at Shanghai and Nankin.

These orders were quickly communicated to the Chinese capital, and it was at this point, Sept. 26 or 27, that the republican Government appealed in two ways to Great Britain to stay Japan's hand. The first was through the British Ambassador at Peking, and the second through Dr. Morrison, the English personal adviser of President Yuan Shih-kai, who was in London and about to return to his post.

On Sept. 29, the Japanese Foreign Office received a query from Sir Edward Grey as to the nature of the demands made by Japan upon China because of the Nankin affair. No reply to this inquiry was made by cable, but a brief acknowledgment of it was sent to London, and at the same time the information was conveyed that a full text of the Japanese demands was being prepared and that it would be forwarded with as little delay as possible. It was evidently the purpose of the Foreign Office people to delay answering Sir Edward Grey's note long enough to enable the Peking cabinet to send its "invitation," or, at least, give the Japanese military and naval authorities time to make a decided movement

against China before England could interfere. That such was the view of the situation taken by the British officials would seem to be indicated by the fact that although the Japanese reply to Sir Edward Grey's message of Sept. 29 was not sent from Tokyo until late on the evening of Sept. 30, a second message came from London on Oct. 1, being delivered to the Foreign Office here about noon. A duplicate of this despatch was also received for Prince Katsura and was delivered to him in his bed at his residence. Still another code despatch, of great length, was received about the same time by the British Embassy.

According to the various authorities already quoted or referred to, these despatches of the British Government are the immediate cause of the Japanese request that the treaty of alliance be abrogated or at least allowed to run into abeyance. It is known that Sir Edward Grey's second note, though it was in language of diplomatic delicacy, was too sharp for Japanese sensibilities. It indicated, it is said, that Yuan Shih-kai and Sun Paowai, through regular channels and through the medium of Dr. Morrison, had indicated quite freely the full demands made by the Japanese Government and their own fears in relation thereto. No other explanation of the British Foreign Secretary's note can satisfactorily be made for the promised Japanese text of what had been asked of China had not been sent from Tokyo; and as the nature of the real demands had been kept profoundly close in this city—being known outside the Foreign Office to but three of the Privy Council and the same number of the House of Peers, it was evident that the intimation to secrecy was not fully obeyed by the Peking Government.

The British note stated, without indicating from what source, that the Government had been apprised of the intentions of Japan relative to the matter of the reparation and indemnity to be demanded of China, and that his Britannic Majesty's Ministers were unable to credit the necessity or the expediency of such measures of undue harshness toward the Government of the Chinese Republic. It was urged that inasmuch as Japan and Great Britain were allies and that each was not alone equally interested in all problems of international import in the Far East but mutually pledged to the preservation of China as a political entity, Japan should take round about and ally before proceeding with extreme measures against China.

It was further advanced that upon the expressed word of the Japanese Government, delivered orally and by telegraph, the Chinese Government was ready and willing, fully and with despatch, to make satisfactory amends to the Government of his Imperial Japanese Majesty.

Military Movement Checked.

The immediate effect of this communication from London was the countermanding of all orders which had been issued for the mobilization and embarkation of the Fifth Army division. The naval orders were in part curtailed, only those relating to the sending to a fleet of warships to Nankin and Shanghai being allowed to stand. The small squadron which had been brought together at Moji and which was intended to sail at least to the mouth of the Peiho, was hurriedly divided into two sections and sent respectively to Kobe and Nagasaki naval stations.

In the meantime a reply had been sent to the British Government's last note, in this it was stated that the Chinese officials evidently missed the real meaning of Japan's attitude and that the latter nation had no intention of sending an ultimatum to China to be backed by a display of military and naval forces. On the contrary, the note asserted, the Japanese Government believed President Yuan Shih-kai would welcome a small Japanese force in the north at a time when Federal and provincial troops were so largely engaged in the quelling of serious disturbances in the southern and central sections, a force that would readily be withdrawn upon his request either before or after the Chinese saw fit to make reparation. The note concluded with an assurance that the friendly and unselfish offices extended by the British Government were fully appreciated.

Russia as Japan's Best Friend.

Commenting on the foregoing one of the most progressive statesmen of Japan, a hereditary member of the House of Peers, said to THE SUN's correspondent today:

"The end of the so-called alliance is not far off, and Japan will be the gainer by the cutting of the diplomatic strings. England does not love Japan, nor is the entire Anglo-Saxon race at all friendly to this country. People are beginning to fear of the growing power of Russia in the Far East we congratulated ourselves upon the signing of the treaty of alliance, though Marquis Ito declared, 'Enemies to the Emperor, that we would see a day when we would regret its making. That was a dozen years ago. Great changes have come about since that time, and today we rightly look upon Russia as our best friend. Her interests and ours are no longer antagonistic, but rather are along lines that run parallel.

"On the other hand Great Britain feels a stronger hold in Peking than ever before, and it would not surprise me to learn that an 'understanding' stronger by far than this so-called 'alliance' exists between the Peking and London Governments. It is at least worthy of note that the Chinese President is surrounding himself with advisers taken from the high ranks of the British service, from the man who is constantly at his elbow in all personal matters down through the courts, the army, navy and into the more important posts of the republic's finances."

"Great Britain opposes our every move for political or commercial expansion; her colonies bar our emigrants, and her home people constantly slur the Japanese flag and nation. Why should not such an 'alliance' be ended, and quickly? I understand our Government wanted to be understood to be arrived at quietly, but personally I am glad the facts are becoming known."

partment official can be found who finds in the Tokio story anything which commends it as worthy of credence. Their official and other information apparently convinces them that it is most unlikely that Japan has taken such a step as to seek the abrogation of the alliance with Great Britain.

They do not adduce any positive proof that Japan has not in the last six weeks made such a move, but they are wholly unconvinced by the Tokio despatch that such is the case.

A well informed diplomat who has recently covered the entire field of Anglo-Japanese and American-Japanese relations in regard to the California incident is most emphatic in his disbelief of the despatch. He says the Japanese themselves admit that the Anglo-Japanese alliance has been and is a veritable life-saver to them and that should it be removed their position would at once be immeasurably weakened.

It was this alliance, the diplomat says, which enabled Japan to force Great Britain to pledge herself in writing that Japan should not be discriminated against by Great Britain or any of her colonies; that except for the alliance, British Columbia and Australia would be found giving much further than California in their opposition to the Japanese; that it is this alliance which keeps the issue submerged and insures Japan of reasonable safety for her interests in that regard.

The abrogation of the alliance would be, he says, the signal for the bursting out of the flames of anti-Japanese agitation in the British colonies, something which both Governments are equally desirous of preventing, but most especially Japan, who can ignore the feeling in the colonies as long as it is unable to express itself in anti-Japanese action.

Within a year, it is said, Japan has

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A Well Informed Diplomat Gives Reasons for His Disbelief.

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All Silk Jersey with deep plaited ruffle; silk Jersey underlay. value 8.50, 6.95

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Traveling and Motor Coats of Boucle and assorted fabrics. value 22.50 to 35.00, 14.75, 17.50 and 22.50

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